

**To:** Whitley, Christopher[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]  
**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C.  
**Sent:** Fri 3/21/2014 3:50:36 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

Thanks Chris!

**Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.**

Science, Environment and Health Reporter

St. Louis Public Radio | 90.7 KWMU

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<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/term/health-science>

***News That Matters.***

Connect with Us:



**From:** Whitley, Christopher [mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 10:16 AM  
**To:** Lacapra, Veronique C.  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

I fully understand the questions. We are working on answering them for you.

Was simply wondering if the same questions had been posited to Koster, if only to see if he could explain in detail HIS perception of the proximities that has caused his concern. Might be different from our view—I don't know. Hope to learn that soon and share it with you.

Not trying to tell you how to report. Just being a curious cat.

Stay tuned...

## **Chris Whitley**

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

913-551-7394

**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C. [<mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 10:06 AM

**To:** Whitley, Christopher

**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

No worries, I've made PLENTY of mistakes.....

Koster said the location of the RIM was based on preliminary data coming out of EPA – so I think you guys would have the most direct knowledge of that, not Koster.

My main question is what's the latest estimate of how close the fire is to the RIM, now that RIM has been found further south than previously thought.

Airtime for SLOTA is noon to 1pm CT.

I'm running to another interview....

**Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.**

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Connect with Us:



**From:** Whitley, Christopher [<mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 9:55 AM

**To:** Lacapra, Veronique C.

**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

I read you loud, clear and PAINFULLY ashamed on the spelling error. Thanks for the catch.

Likewise, I am busy trying to ferret out answers for you here at EPA on the RIM in the North Quarry issue. Have you pitched those same questions to CHRIS Koster's office, since that was the source that raised the concern?

And I will inquire as to Karl's availability for the live call-in next week. Remind me of the airtime, if you would?

Your humble public servant,

**Chris Whitley**

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

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**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C. [<mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 9:33 AM

**To:** Whitley, Christopher

**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

**Importance:** High

I meant also to ask about Karl's availability to participate in our live call-in show next week, on either Tuesday (Mar 25) or Thursday (Mar 27)? This would be to discuss issues at the Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills. David Bryan had started to look into Karl's availability for us, while you were out.

And....I would still like an answer to my questions about

- (1) How far south of the perimeter fence has RIM been detected?
- (2) How far does this mean that the underground fire is from the nearest RIM? We'd been told 1000 feet in the past – I assume now it's something less than that.

Thanks Chris,

Veronique

P.S. CHRIS Koster

**Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.**

Science, Environment and Health Reporter

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<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/term/health-science>

***News That Matters.***

Connect with Us:



**From:** Chris Whitley [<mailto:whitley.christopher@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 8:26 AM

**To:** [vlacapra@stlpublicradio.org](mailto:vlacapra@stlpublicradio.org)

**Subject:** EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

**EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill Site**

Contact Information: **Chris Whitley, 913-551-7394, [whitley.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:whitley.christopher@epa.gov)**

**Environmental News**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Lenexa, Kan., March 21, 2014) – EPA Regional Administrator Karl Brooks today sent the following letter to Missouri Attorney General Kris Koster:

March 21, 2014

The Honorable Kris Koster

Attorney General of Missouri

P.O. Box 899

Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Koster:

I valued the opportunity to speak with you last week about the need to ensure continued protection of public health at the West Lake Superfund site through effective federal-state partnership. The State of Missouri and the Environmental Protection Agency have been using our respective regulatory and oversight powers to keep holding the responsible parties to their duties: controlling the SSE at Bridgeton

Sanitary Landfill, separating the West Lake Landfill from the SSE, and completing selection and implementation of a protective long-term Superfund remedy at West Lake.

As we discussed, Region 7's team of experts continues taking several decisive actions at the West Lake Superfund site. The EPA intends soon to conclude an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to enlist Corps construction expertise for the isolation barrier to separate West Lake from the SSE. I will keep you and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources closely informed about the status of this project. And I concur with your recommendation that you and I promptly take that opportunity to inform the community about isolation barrier construction activities before they begin.

EPA's jurisdiction under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, covers release of hazardous substances wherever they have come to be located. EPA is committed to taking actions that compel the West Lake/Bridgeton PRPs to bear the costs legally required to contain and manage radiologically impacted material (RIM) resulting from the disposal of leached barium sulfate, regardless of where it is located at the site.

EPA's jurisdiction extends to wherever hazardous substances are located within the landfill complex. We will of course, closely cooperate with your office and the MDNR to align CERCLA work with PRP duties compelled by your Order at Bridgeton. I assure you that EPA work at the West Lake/Bridgeton NPL site will respect state authority while ensuring consistent site evaluations and appropriate allocation of federal and state responsibilities.

The Order your Office established in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County exercised State environmental-protection authorities which EPA considers complementary to our CERCLA powers. The State's lead in compelling the PRPs to control the subsurface smoldering event better enables this agency to compel the PRPs to isolate Bridgeton's SSE from West Lake. I believe that continuing to coordinate state and federal work will best accomplish our mutual goal to keep the public protected from environmental contaminants and nuisances, no matter their origin within the NPL site.

We will continue to coordinate and communicate with you and your colleagues in the State of Missouri as we work to accomplish our shared goal of protecting the health of all Missourians.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks

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Learn more about the West Lake Landfill Site:

[http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm)

Learn more about EPA Region 7: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region7.html>

Connect with EPA Region 7 on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eparegion7>

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